POWER FOR GOOD

April 2025

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Westport Battery Energy Storage System

Contents

1 Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report outlines how Westport Energy Storage Limited (the Applicant) has engaged with the local community to inform them about the proposed Westport Battery Energy Storage System, hereinafter referred to as the Proposed Development.

The Report explains how and when the community was consulted with before the application for Section 36 (S36) through the Electricity Act 1989 was submitted to Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (hereinafter referred to as ECU) and how this consultation has shaped the Proposed Development.

The PAC Report summarises those activities undertaken, details how comments received from the community were considered, and sets out if any consequent changes or mitigating measures have been included in the proposal.

While not a statutory requirement for S36 applications, the Applicant is committed to effective community engagement and has applied the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning - Development Management Procedure - (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended by the Town and Country Planning - Pre-Application Consultation - (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021) and Planning Circular 3:2022-Development Management Procedures.

The approach taken by the Applicant is also consistent with the approach advocated by the ECU in their Good Practice Guidance for Applications Under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals a clear opportunity to view the proposals, and importantly comment and feedback.

1.1 Proposed Development

The Proposed Development consists of an up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located on land north of Killoch Colliery between Coalhaul and Ochiltree, East Ayrshire.

The compound area containing the battery containers, substation and associated infrastructure, is not expected to exceed 3.13 hectares and the site lies outside of any international, national, or local environmental designations.

2. The Applicant's commitment to consultation

The Applicant will be responsible for the development of the Proposed Development. The Section 36 application is supported by the technical expertise of RES (Renewable Energy Systems Ltd). RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

More recently, between 2020-2024, RES successfully developed, consented and secured investment for over 400MW of battery energy storage projects, including: the 50MW Roaring Hill Project in Fife; the 80MW Stoney Project in Buckinghamshire, and the 50MW Drum Farm Project in Moray. Furthermore, following the development and construction of the 100MW Lakeside Project in North Yorkshire, RES has recently taken on full asset management services for the project which is currently the largest transmission-connected BESS in the UK.

The Applicant is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and community organisations, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. The Applicant is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.

3. Statutory requirements and best practice

The Applicant recognises the value of engaging with and seeking to involve the local people in development proposals, both prior to and following the submission of any application, and through to the construction and operation should the Applicant's proposals obtain consent.

Whilst there is no statutory requirement for pre-application consultation in relation to Section 36 applications, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation for the Proposed Development in accordance with the best practice activity expected as set out in the Electricity Act 1989 – Section 36: applications guidance (Section 3. Pre-Application)[1].

Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement is an update of PAN 81 which advises that in order for the community engagement to be successful, it is important that everyone interested in the future development of the community, village, town, or city they live in, should understand the planning process. Developers are advised to involve residents at the earliest opportunity so that they can feel confident that engagement in the process has been meaningful:

PAN 3/2010 highlights that the term 'consultation' is used to mean the:

"Dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action. The terms 'engagement' and 'involvement' are generally interchangeable and are taken to mean the establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups. Participation is everything that enables people to influence the decisions and get involved in the actions that affect their lives. In the context of this document, engagement is, in effect, giving people a genuine opportunity to have a say on a development plan or proposal which affects them; listening to what they say and reaching a decision in an open and transparent way to ensure they are taking account of all views expressed (page 3, paragraph 1)."

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (2023) also highlights the important role of effective engagement, stating:

"Throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals."

The Applicant is committed to undertaking effective and early consultation methods in this way, including tailoring its strategies to suit individual communities. Residents' values and issues of importance vary, and the consultation programmes are designed to reflect that.

[1] https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/pages/3/

4. Consultation methodology

The purpose of pre-application consultation is to improve, where possible, the quality of the proposed S36 application by considering public opinions and addressing, wherever possible, any issues raised by stakeholders. It is also intended that any interested stakeholders have access to up-to-date and accurate information regarding the Proposed Development and the opportunity to provide feedback to be considered prior to the proposed S36 application being finalised and submitted.

4.1 Community and stakeholder mapping

This section details the key local stakeholders that the Applicant identified and consulted with during the pre-application consultation process. Prior to the start of the consultation, the Applicant undertook desktop research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key stakeholders to engage with during pre-application consultation. This research involved identifying local stakeholders located around the site of the Proposed Development.

The stakeholder groups identified included:

- Ochiltree Community Council
- Ward members for the Cumnock and New Cumnock ward of East Ayrshire Council
- Ward members for the Doon Valley ward of East Ayrshire Council
- Member of Scottish Parliament for the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Scottish parliamentary constituency
- Member of Parliament for the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock Westminster constituency
- Residential and business properties within 3km of the Proposed Development

4.2 Consultation

The pre-application consultation began on 12 November 2024. A combination of methods were used to inform the stakeholders about the Proposed Development and, subsequently, to ascertain their views.

In line with the guidance, any public notices included a statement advising that comments made to the prospective Applicant were not representations to the determining authority and that if the Applicant submitted an application there would then be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the determining authority at that stage.

4.2.1 Letter emailed to locally elected representatives – 12 November 2024

The Applicant wrote to Ochiltree Community Council, ward members for the Cumnock and New Cumnock ward and Doon Valley ward of East Ayrshire Council, MSP for the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Scottish parliamentary constituency and MP for the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock Westminster constituency, to advise them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for a battery energy storage development at the site location and would commence a number of consultation activities shortly - including holding public exhibitions to gather people's feedback on the proposal.

The letter also invited these representatives to contact the Applicant if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix A**.

4.2.2 Letter emailed to local community group – 13 November 2024

The Applicant wrote to the 9CC Group to advise them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for a battery energy storage development at the site location and would commence a number of consultation activities shortly - including holding public exhibitions to gather people's feedback on the proposal.

The letter also invited 9CCG to contact the Applicant if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal and local benefits which could be delivered by the Proposed Development, if consented. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix B**.

4.2.3 Project website – 18 November 2024

A project website was launched at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk** containing information on the Proposed Development as well as contact details for the project team to facilitate direct engagement.

The project website remains live and will be updated when the application is validated, to include links to all S36 application documentation.

4.2.4 Pre-exhibition advertising (first consultation) – 20 November 2024

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Cumnock Chronicle to help raise awareness of the upcoming public exhibition event (first consultation). A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix C**.

4.2.5 Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing (first consultation) – 20 November 2024

The Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event (first consultation), to 744 properties identified within 3km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix D**.

Figure 1- Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing radius (3km)

4.2.6 Newsletter emailed to locally elected representatives and local community group – 21 November 2024

The Applicant emailed a copy of the newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event (first consultation), to Ochiltree Community Council, ward members for the Cumnock and New Cumnock ward and Doon Valley ward of East Ayrshire Council, MSP for the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Scottish parliamentary constituency and MP for the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock Westminster constituency.

The Applicant also emailed a copy of the newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event (first consultation), to the 9CC Group and invited representatives from the group to a meeting in advance of the public exhibition.

4.2.7 Public exhibition (first consultation) – 4 December 2024

The public exhibition for the first consultation took place on 4 December 2024 between 3pm and 8pm at Ochiltree Parish Church Hall, 64-66 Main Street, Ochiltree, Cumnock KA18 2PB.

Figure 2 - Public exhibition (first consultation), Ochiltree Parish Church Hall

Approximately 29 people attended the public exhibition, and a copy of the information boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix E**.

All information provided on the information boards at the public exhibition was also published on the project website at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk** from 4 December 2024.

For people without internet access, hard copies of the public exhibition material were made available upon request. No requests for hard copies were received.

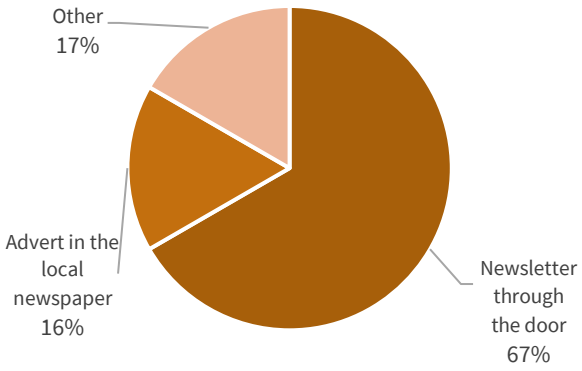
A comment form was provided at the public exhibition as well as online, to encourage feedback from people about renewable energy and battery energy storage in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy to submit at the public exhibition as well as on the project website where it could be submitted online, by email or by post. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix F**.

The consultation period for feedback on the Proposed Development ran from 4 December 2024 to 6 January 2025. A total of six completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided in section 4.2.8.

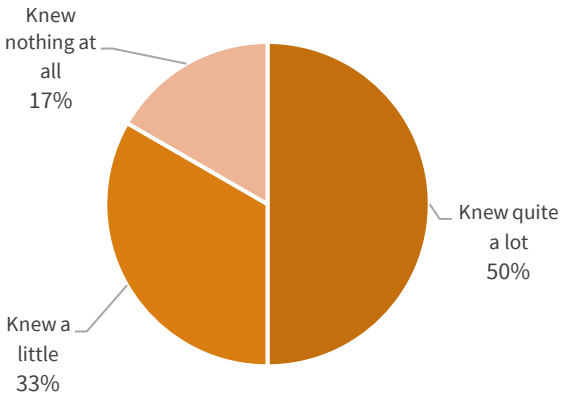
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

4.2.8 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment forms – 6 respondents (first consultation)

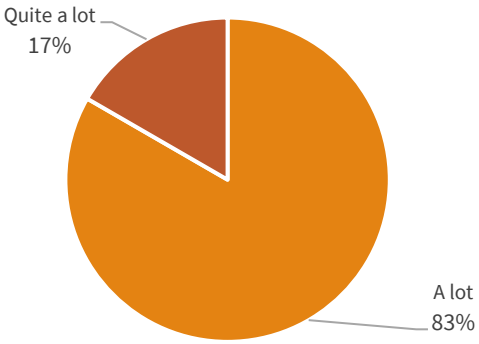
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



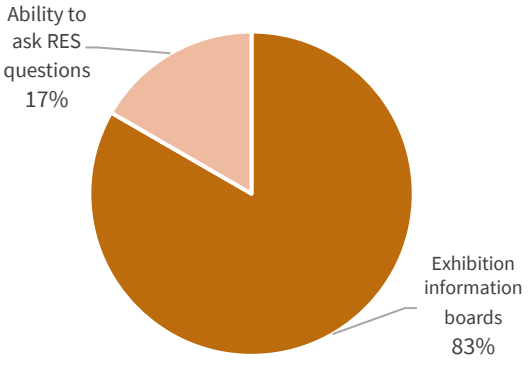
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Westport Battery Energy Storage System?



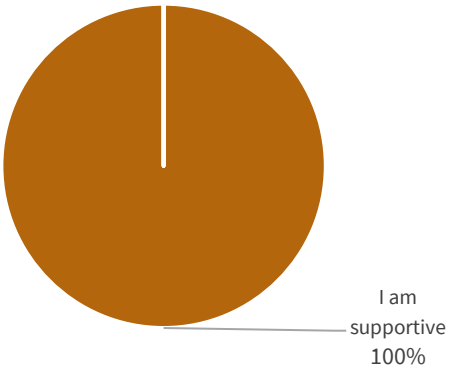
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Westport Battery Energy Storage System?



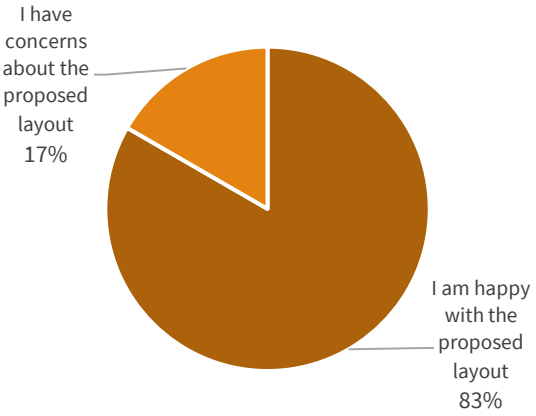
Q1.4 What part of the public exhibition did you find most useful?



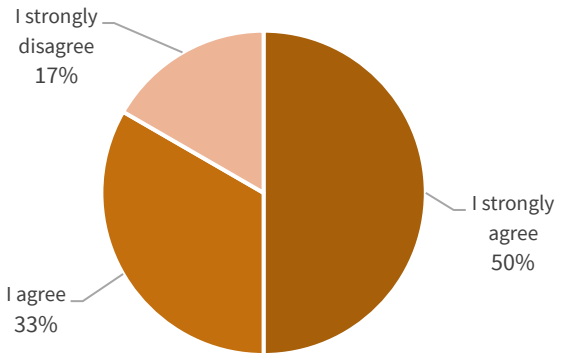
Q2.1 How do you feel in general about the Westport Battery Energy Storage System proposal?



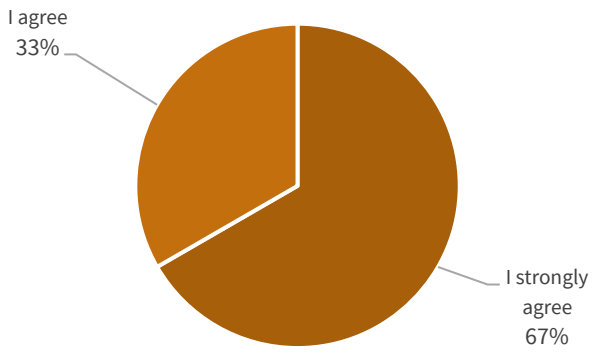
Q2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Westport Battery Energy Storage System?



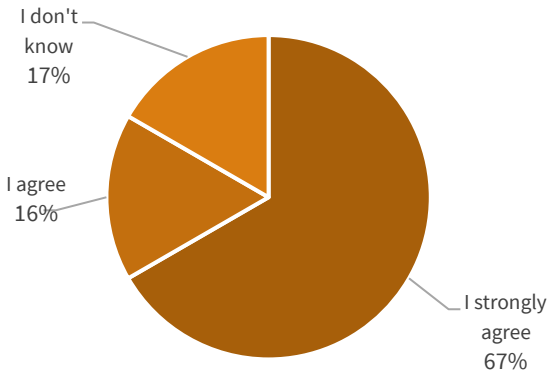
Q4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



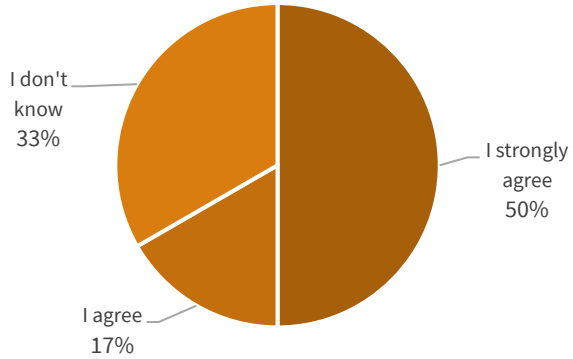
Q4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



Q4.3. Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for Scotland?



Q4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy?



4.2.9 Pre-exhibition advertising (second consultation) – 12 February 2025

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Cumnock Chronicle to help raise awareness of the upcoming public exhibition event (second consultation). A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix G**.

4.2.10 Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing (second consultation) – 12 February 2025

The Applicant sent a postcard, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event (second consultation), to 744 properties identified within 3km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the postcard can be found at **Appendix H**.

4.2.11 Postcard emailed to locally elected representatives and local community group – 12 February 2025

The Applicant emailed a copy of the postcard, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event (second consultation), to Ochiltree Community Council, ward members for the Cumnock and New Cumnock ward and Doon Valley ward of East Ayrshire Council, MSP for the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Scottish parliamentary constituency and MP for the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock Westminster constituency.

The Applicant also emailed a copy of the postcard, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event (second consultation), to the 9CC Group and invited representatives from the group to a meeting on the day of the public exhibition.

4.2.12 Public exhibition (second consultation) – 26 February 2025

The public exhibition for the second consultation took place on 26 February 2025 between 3pm and 8pm at Ochiltree Parish Church Hall, 64-66 Main Street, Ochiltree, Cumnock KA18 2PB.

Figure 3 - Public exhibition (second consultation), Ochiltree Parish Church Hall

Approximately 12 people attended the public exhibition, and a copy of the information boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix I**.

Hard copies of a Report on Feedback were provided as part of the exhibition materials, which summarised the written feedback received from the community during the December 2024 public exhibition and subsequent consultation period. It also highlighted any changes that have been made to the preliminary design of the proposed development since then. A copy of the Report on Feedback can be found at **Appendix J**.

All the information provided on the information boards at the second public exhibition and a digital copy of the Report on Feedback, was published on the project website at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk** from 26 February 2025.

For people without internet access, hard copies of the public exhibition material were made available upon request. No requests for hard copies were received.

A comment form was provided at the public exhibition as well as online, to encourage feedback from people about renewable energy and battery energy storage in general and the updated project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy to submit at the public exhibition as well as on the project website where it could be submitted online, by email or by post. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix K**.

The consultation period for feedback on the Proposed Development ran from 26 February 2025 to 7 March 2025. No completed comment forms were received by the Applicant.

At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

4.2.13 Other consultation responses

In addition to the consultation activities outlined above, the Applicant responded to any queries received by email, in relation to the Proposed Development from the local community, stakeholders and statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period.

4.3 Summary of consultation

In summary, a range of engagement and communication activities was undertaken as part of the pre-application community consultation - reaching both local stakeholders as well as audiences in the wider area. This activity included:

- Letters to locally elected representatives;
- Letters to politically elected representatives;
- Advertisements for the public exhibitions in the local press;
- Newsletter/postcard informing local residents and elected representatives about the public exhibitions;
- Two public exhibitions; and
- A dedicated project website.

All feedback received during the pre-application consultation period has been considered by the Applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 5.

5. Feedback and applicant's response

The Applicant believes in meaningful and effective consultation, to facilitate constructive dialogue with stakeholders and the community. All feedback received through the pre-application consultation activities has been considered, as part of the iterative design process.

A summary of the feedback received from both the completed comment forms and any additional feedback received verbally, by email or post, are summarised below together with the Applicant's response.

Sample of comments received	Applicant's response to issue/concern
Need for the development *"I was sceptical about creeping industrialisation but the principle of battery storage I support."* *"The proposed layout is good."* *"It's very big (a lot of storage boxes)"*	The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and BESS provides an important role in this. BESS technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. BESS helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation. BESS is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply. BESS can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress. BESS is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to support Scotland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future. BESS also has a key role in cost-effectively decarbonising the power sector by 2030. They help to balance the electricity system at a lower cost by maximising the output of variable generation as well as minimising both network upgrades and the need for new infrastructure. Short-duration flexibility offered by technologies such as BESS, could reduce energy system costs by up to £10bn per year by 2050[2] through minimising the need for new peaking generation, such as expensive gas, and network assets.
Ecology *"Look forward to improved biodiversity of the surrounding area. "* *"Be careful of wildlife and farm life on this journey."*	The Applicant takes the protection of the environment and surrounding area's ecology seriously and an **Ecological Impact Assessment** (EcIA) forms part of the planning application. Approximately 40% of the total site boundary area will be used for the new BESS. The EcIA concludes that the habitat within the site boundary is of low conservation value, is unlikely to support significant numbers of

2 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f57aade90e0764cd98a0a3/smart-systems-appendix-i-electricity-system-flexibility-modelling.pdf

"Any improvement for wildlife around the site would be beneficial" *"The proposal to screen the development and to provide added biodiversity to what is a barren wildlife area is a good one."*	roosting or foraging bird species, and - with an adequate buffer around the Potential Roosting Feature – Moderate (PRF-M) classified trees and no added permanent artificial lighting - is not expected to negatively impact local bat populations. The Proposed Development has been specifically designed to include comprehensive landscaping measures as shown in the **Landscape Masterplan** which accompanies the planning application. These measures include: • Wildflower grassland • Native shrub planting • Native tree planting As well as reducing potential visibility of the Proposed Development, the measures would deliver a biodiversity net gain of approximately 15.6% in habitat units, 10% in hedgerow units and 16% in watercourse units.
Aviation *"Have you consulted with Prestwick Airport?"*	Due to the low-level height of BESS infrastructure and the Proposed Development's distance from the nearest airport, any impact on aviation is not expected. Where appropriate, National Air Traffic Control, the MOD and the Civil Aviation Authority will be formally consulted on the planning application.
Fire safety *"What fire suppression system is used and is there any risk of air pollution."* *"is there any risk of pollution from fire water run-off?"*	Unlike electric vehicles and some older BESS, BESS projects are typically monitored 24/7/365. Some controls can also be safely operated remotely from the control centre, such as the shutting down of an individual battery rack or the entire BESS, if required. The Proposed Development has been developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways. The proposed battery technology for the Proposed Development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. Batteries will be specified to be tested and certified to UL 9540A, demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway. A number of control measures will also be implemented to further reduce risk from fire. These include: • Equipment spacing – the design allows for adequate spacing between the battery storage

	enclosures to mitigate against the risk of fire spread. • Protection systems - comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system. The fire suppression system is typically a gaseous (clean agent), or an aerosol-based system. Battery containers would also usually include a dry type sprinkler system. The system can be used in occupied spaces with no harmful greenhouse gas emissions. This is similar to systems which are used in commercial buildings, including office buildings, hospitals, hotels etc. • Access to battery enclosure – all battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. • Access for emergency services – the Proposed Development will have wide access corridors of up to 15 metres throughout the compound, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the battery energy storage compound. The proposed control measures in place reduces the risk of a fire event to very low. In the unlikely event of a fire event, water is typically applied to adjacent battery enclosures (known as boundary cooling) rather than the damaged container as such reducing any risk of polluted water run-off. An **Outline Fire Risk Management Plan** accompanies the planning application. If consented, a management plan will be developed in liaison with all relevant parties including the local fire and rescue services.
Consultation *"It is confusing with other developments in the same area"* *"How can we see what the project would look like?"*	The Applicant carefully considered the feedback received from the first consultation event and sought to respond to and address it as the design was refined, and within the materials presented at the second consultation event. In response to comments on the need for pictorial representation, the Applicant included a Zone of Theoretical Visibility and photomontages from three viewpoints as part of the exhibition materials for the second consultation.

	The Applicant also included a plan showing all consented and proposed developments in the area, as discussed with some visitors at the first consultation.
Cumulative Impact *"Just too many."*	The Applicant understands and is mindful of concerns amongst the local community regarding the number of developments in the area. Due to the limited grid capacity across Scotland, it is common to see developments focus on areas where there is grid capacity. Potential cumulative impact from other operational, consented and in-planning developments has been carefully considered and assessed in the following reports which accompany the S36 application: • Landscape and Visual impact Assessment • Acoustic Assessment BESS needs to be able to both import and export energy and whilst the availability of sites with sufficient import and export capacity is extremely limited, the development is situated in an area with sufficient capacity. The Proposed Development has been specifically located close to the existing Coylton electricity substation where the Proposed Development will connect to the wider grid network. BESS need to be located as close as possible to the substation from which its grid connection is provided in order to limit electrical losses and ensure efficiency of the system. By locating the Proposed Development here, there is also minimum requirement for additional overhead and/or underground cables to connect the Proposed Development to the grid network, therefore limiting any environmental impacts. The Applicant produced a plan showing the location of the Proposed Development in relation to other projects in the area for the second consultation event to assist with the identification of other developments in the area. This included developments that are consented, in planning, or at pre-planning phase.
Traffic and Access *"You should avoid the use of weak bridges in the area"*	It is proposed that all equipment deliveries travel along the A70, before turning north onto Creoch Road. This route avoids any weak bridges in the area. A **Transport Statement** and **Construction Traffic Management Plan** accompany the planning application and outline details of the proposed transport management arrangements during the construction of

	the Proposed Development and also provides details of transport movements during both construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Throughout the construction phase, delivery vehicles will be comprised of a combination of HGVs and cars/vans with all contractors encouraged to car/van share to reduce vehicle movements. Two abnormal load movements will be required to deliver the transformer equipment to the site. These will occur under managed circumstances. Parking for the workforce will be fully accommodated on site. There will be no vehicle movements on Sundays or bank holidays and deliveries, where possible, will be scheduled to avoid peak times where relevant, e.g. avoiding rush hours and after school drop off and pick up times. If consented, construction of the Proposed Development is expected to take around 18 months, with peak HGV traffic movements typically in the first few months.

6. Summary

The Applicant believes that consultation and effective communication is extremely important when developing a BESS project.

The Applicant has engaged proactively on the proposal in order to facilitate an early and constructive consultation process and used a variety of methods to communicate and engage with the local community, stakeholders and other interested parties in order to facilitate a strong public understanding of the potential impacts and benefits of the Proposed Development.

This PAC Report sets out the consultation in respect of a the S36 application for the Proposed Development. It confirms that pre-application consultation has been undertaken in accordance with expected and good practice standards and shows that the Applicant engaged early with the local community to encourage a constructive consultation process.

Analysis of the feedback from both consultation events showed that 100% of respondents were, in general, supportive of the Proposed Development. The Applicant thanks members of the local community who took the time to attend the consultation events for the Proposed Development, and were pleased to receive feedback that questions and comments raised at the first consultation event had been answered through the materials presented at the second consultation event.

The Applicant is committed to continuing the open dialogue it has established with the local community during pre-application community consultation as the planning process continues.

The Proposed Development's website at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk** has been and will continue to be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the Proposed Development as it progresses. Once the application has been validated by the ECU, the Applicant will write to

stakeholders and members of the community who have asked to be kept updated on the Proposed Development, to provide them with the planning reference number and contact details for the ECU, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

Appendices

1. Appendix A. Letter emailed to locally elected representatives – 12 November 2024
2. Appendix B. Letter emailed to local community group – 13 November 2024
3. Appendix C. Pre-exhibition advertising (first consultation) – 20 November 2024
4. Appendix D. Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing (first consultation) – 20 November 2024
5. Appendix E Public exhibition (first consultation) information boards – 4 December 2024
6. Appendix F. Comment form (first consultation) – 4 December 2024
7. Appendix G. Pre-exhibition advertising (second consultation) – 12 February 2025
8. Appendix H. Postcard emailed to locally elected representatives and local community group – 12 February 2025
9. Appendix I. Public exhibition (second consultation) information boards – 12 February 2025
10. Appendix J. Report on Feedback – 26 February 2025
11. Appendix K. Comment form (second consultation) – 26 February 2025

RES
Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay
Glasgow G51 1PQ, United Kingdom
www.res-group.com

12 November 2024

Sent by email: [redacted]

[redacted]

Westport Battery Energy Storage System Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for a battery energy storage project on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree, approximately 9km west of Cumnock.

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and has been operating from offices in Glasgow since 1993, employing over 200 local people. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of energy projects across the globe including the development, construction and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.

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Battery energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to support Scotland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future.

The Westport proposal will have an installed generating capacity greater than 50MW and, as such, the application for planning consent will be to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU). We will be submitting a Screening Request to the ECU shortly, and alongside this we are undertaking a number of technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact on the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. This includes any potential cumulative effects from other developments in the area.

RES is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. We will shortly begin a number of consultation activities for the wider community including public exhibitions in the local area, in order to provide more information and to gather people's feedback on the proposal. We will also shortly launch a dedicated project website for the proposal.

We would welcome the opportunity to arrange a meeting with you at a convenient time, should you wish to discuss the project further or ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,

John Hills
Development Project Manager
john.hills@res-group.com

RES
Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay
Glasgow G51 1PQ, United Kingdom
www.res-group.com

[redacted]

12 November 2024

Sent by email: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

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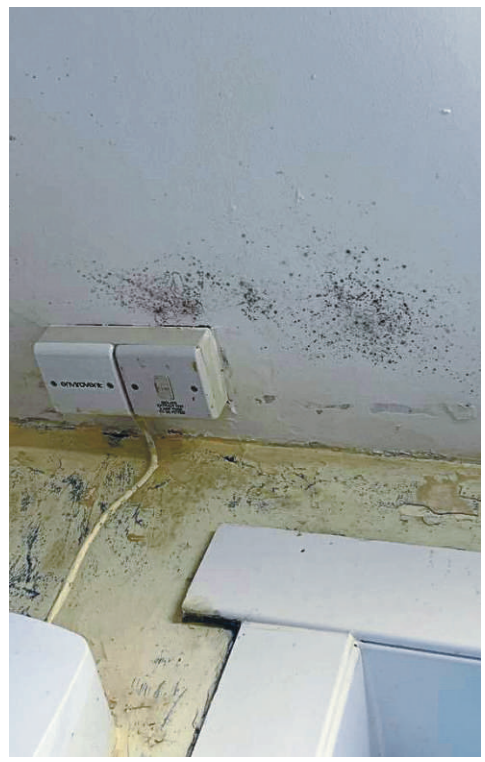
exhibitions in the local area, in order to provide more information and to gather people's feedback on the proposal. We will also shortly launch a dedicated project website for the proposal.

As with all RES developments, we are keen that the Westport proposal should deliver meaningful local benefit. We would welcome the opportunity to arrange a call with 9CCG to discuss the project further and to get feedback on 9CCG's priority projects which could be supported by the Westport project, if it is consented.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a call or to ask any questions that you may have.

Yours faithfully,

John Hills
Development Project Manager
john.hills@res-group.com



The issue has led to Dionne Mcatee, her son Kailer and her partner John sleeping in their living room. Images: Submitted

Mum says son's health at risk due to 'damp' home

Stuart Reid
stuart.reid@newsquest.co.uk

A WORRIED mum has said that her son's health is being put at risk due to apparent dampness in her Auchinleck home.

Dionne Mcatee lives in the property with her partner, John, and son, Kailer, who has suffered from a series of serious health issues since moving into the house in March this year.

Concerned Dionne said she spoke to the previous occupant of the council house, who said that dampness has been a problem in the place for a number of years.

East Ayrshire Council said that an inspection took place in June and no mould or dampness was found.

However, the local authority confirmed that a follow-up visit led to Dionne being given a hygrometer - which helps to read moisture levels in the air.

As well as this, the council said: "Colleagues will continue to work with the tenant to provide support and advice where appropriate."

Dionne said it has been a nightmare dealing with the apparent issues at the home, forcing the family to sleep in their living room.

She said: "I contacted the council about it and they sent somebody out and they had a look around and used their machine to see the dampness and said there was only one area that has damp.

The apparent damp issues at the home. Image: Submitted

"So that doesn't explain why my house is stinking of it.

"They told me to keep my windows open, which is great advice for coming into the winter. My wee boy has a heart condition and doesn't keep well, so I need to keep the house warm.

"The dampness is in his bedroom and we're all sleeping in the living room, because of the condition of the rest of the place."

Dionne added: "Me wee boy has been ill constantly since we moved in. If he's not ill, then I'm ill. And if it's not me then it's my partner and he's got COPD, so it's not helping any of us living in these conditions.

"I was having an inspector coming out, but that was for the walls in the toilet that's crumbling. My water pressure keeps dropping, I've got a leak in the radiator at the bottom of the stairs and my toilet one.

"It's got to the point where they'll have to rip up the toilet floor to sort the pipes and it just doesn't help the overall living state here.

"My boy is 14-months-old. He's had open heart surgery, then three days after his first birthday we found out he had bacterial meningitis, so we don't know if that's been caused by the issues in here.

"It's a constant worry for me, and I just want it sorted for us all.

"I've put my concerns about this place to the council on numerous occasions and I was told I wouldn't get a damp inspector until the end of November. It's just not good enough when they're still expecting rent every month."

A council spokesperson added: "East Ayrshire Council received a report of dampness from the tenant on June 3 this year, an inspection took place on June 17, and at that time no mould or dampness was identified within the property.

"No further reports have been received specifically in relation to dampness since that date.

"A survey has also been commissioned for a specialist contractor to fit a PIV fan, which will assist with ventilation within the property."

Shop theft

A TOBACCO thief broke into a Cumnock shop and ran off with a haul of cigarettes.

Ian Pollock pleaded guilty to illegally entering the premises occupied by Ali's U-Save on the town's Hearth Place, before stealing a quantity of cigarettes and tobacco products on June 15 last year.

The 47-year-old also admitted to being found out with his 7pm-7am curfew hours while out on bail.

Procurator fiscal depute Alasdair Millar told Ayr Sheriff Court he had no exact value for the cigarettes.

Defence solicitor Robert Logan said his client was currently on a drug treatment testing order imposed at the same court.

Sentence was deferred for criminal justice social work reports and bail was continued for Pollock, of Kier Hardie Hill, Cumnock.

Sheriff Mhairi MacTaggart said: "I'm not giving any promises, with your record you could be facing a custodial sentence."

He will return to court at a later date.

Westport Energy Storage System

November 2024

Proposal

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree, approximately 9km west of Cumnock.

Technical and environmental surveys are being undertaken to ensure any potential impact of the development upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. This includes any potential cumulative effects from other developments in the area.

Initial surveys have informed a preliminary layout and design and RES is now at the stage of consulting with the local community to get feedback on our early-stage proposal. The feedback will be taken into account, along with the results of site surveys and assessments as we refine the design.

Wednesday 4th December 2024
3pm – 8pm
Ochiltree Parish Church Hall,
64-66 Main Street, Ochiltree,
Cumnock, KA18 2PB

Public Exhibition

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation, we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views.

Our team will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk from 4th December 2024**.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, please provide feedback on the preliminary design by **Monday 6th January 2025**.

Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comment forms will be available to complete and submit during the public exhibition. Forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the public exhibition and can be submitted online or downloaded and submitted via email to rebecca.randall@res-group.com.

Hard copies can be sent by post to Westport project team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

What is an Energy Storage System?

The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and battery energy storage systems provide an important role in this.

Battery energy storage technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. Battery energy storage helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation. Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.

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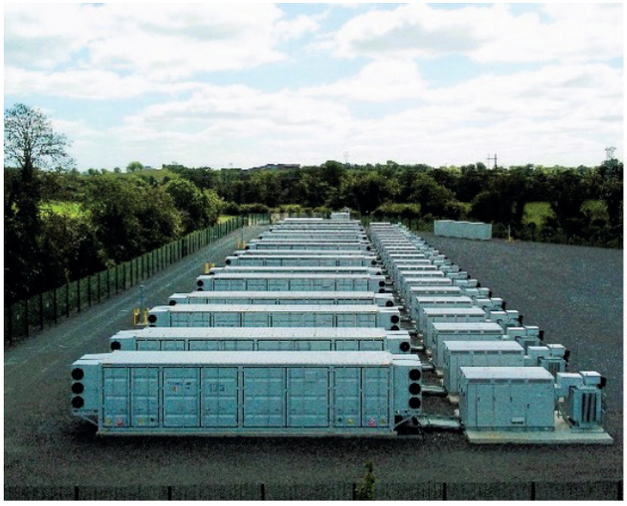
Battery energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to support Scotland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future.

Electricity is not physically generated on site.



Images for illustrative purposes only

About RES

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 27GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base. RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. We bring together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and designs safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. RES has developed over 830MW of energy storage projects across the UK and Ireland, including the development, construction, and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in West Lothian. RES also currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

John Hills
Development Project Manager
john.hills@res-group.com | 01923 299 277
RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

Welcome to our public consultation

Thank you for taking the time to attend this public exhibition.

We are seeking your views on the preliminary design for a battery energy storage proposal that we are exploring on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree.

We consider pre-application consultation a crucial part of the battery energy storage development process and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we will consider when developing and refining the design and delivery of the proposal.

A range of information is shared, including details of the site location, design layout, proposed infrastructure, likely delivery route and environmental considerations.

The public exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation and is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- learn more about the proposal
- discuss any questions or views with our project team
- provide written feedback to RES on the proposal.

Please take time to read the information provided and talk to our project team about any questions that you may have. All consultation feedback submitted to RES will be reviewed by the project team over the coming weeks as we continue the design process.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Westport Energy Storage Proposal

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The world's largest independent renewable energy company

As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered mmore than 27GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 4,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 24 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution

Find out more at res-group.com

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy bringing together global experience, passion, and the innovation of its people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

By listening, discussing, and working together, we can build clean energy project proposals that power positive change for everyone.

RES in Scotland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland.

From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating energy projects since 1993. This includes the development, construction, and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 830MW of battery energy storage projects, and we currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

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The need for battery energy storage

The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and battery energy storage systems provide an important role in this.

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Project overview

The proposed Westport Energy Storage site is located on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree, approximately 9km west of Cumnock.

The area containing the energy storage infastructure is not expected to exceed 4 hectares including the site tracks.

The site has been chosen due to its proximity to the Coylton substation and as it lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations.

If consented, the project would connect directly into the Coylton substation.

The Westport proposal will be capable of providing up to 150MW of storage capacity. That's the equivalent of fully charging around 6,000 electric vehicles.

As the Westport proposal will have an installed generating capacity greater than 50MW, the application for planning consent will be submitted by RES to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and will be determined by Scottish Ministers. East Ayrshire Council will be a statutory consultee in the process. We currently expect to submit the Section 36 application in Spring/Summer 2025.

Having undertaken initial site feasibility work we are now preparing for more detailed environmental and technical site survey work which will be carried out over the coming months to help inform the design. In line with this, we have submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment screening request to the ECU.

WESTPORT BESS

LOCATION PLAN

We are still consulting on the development boundary and as such, it is subject to change

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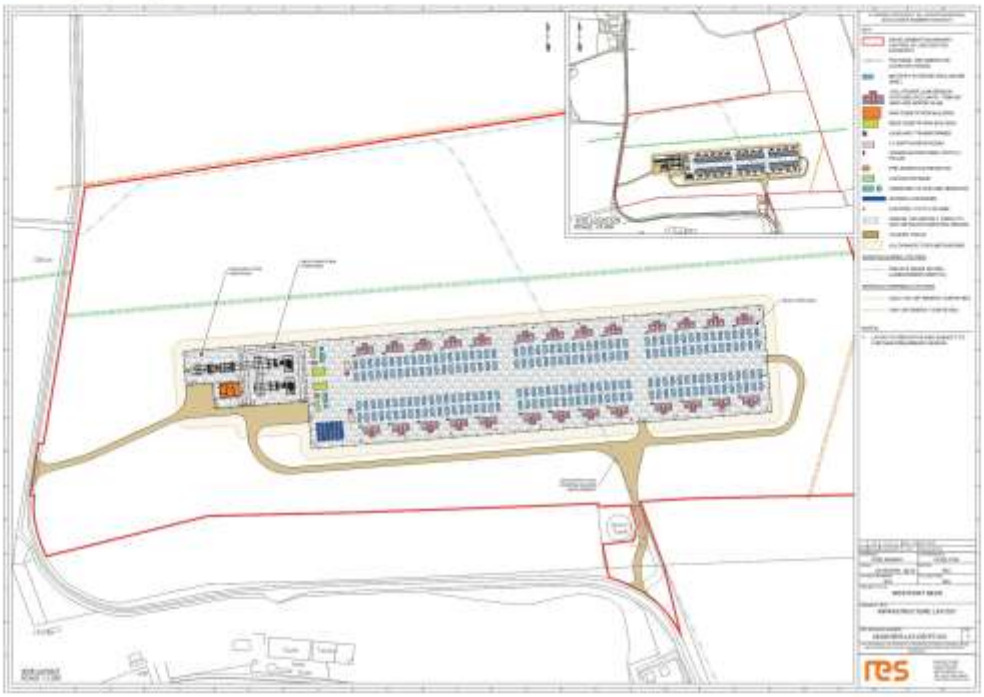
Infrastructure and layout

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for the Westport Energy Storage project.



We are still consulting on the layout and as such, it is subject to change

The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven Lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

The site would comprise of approximately 200 battery containers. The typical dimensions of the battery containers are 6.1 metres long by 2.4m wide by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be the DNO substation which would have a maximum height of around 7 metres.

The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- DNO Substation & grid infrastructure
- BESS Substation
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Grid Connection Infrastructure
- Security System
- Landscaping
- Drainage Scheme

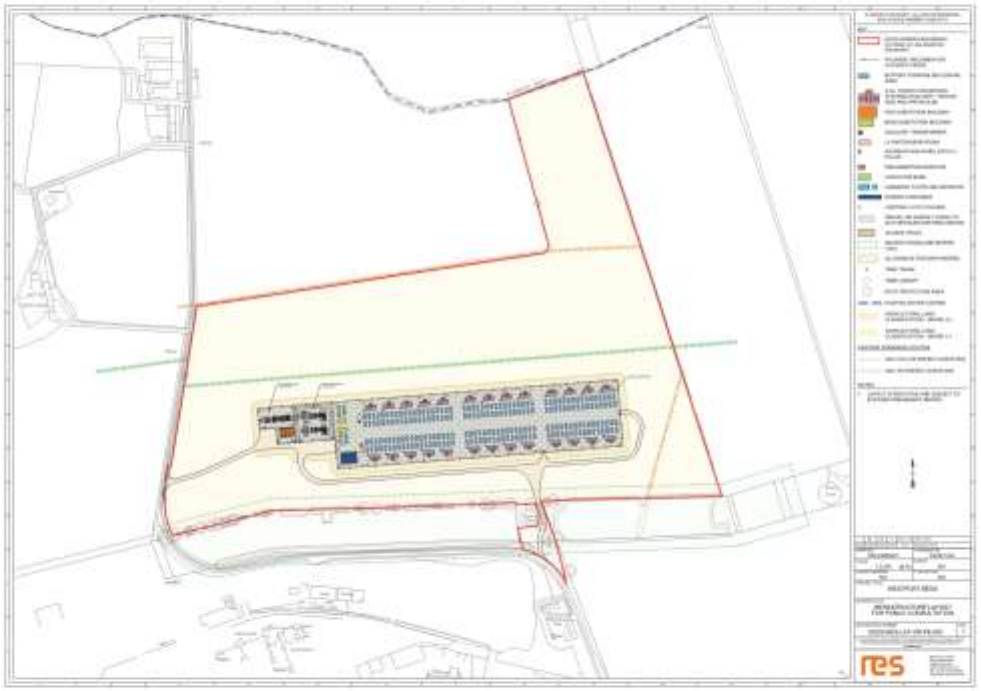
Constraints and considerations

When choosing an appropriate location and site for a battery energy storage system, it is important that we consider a number of environmental and technical constraints.

Site-specific constraints and buffers are shown on the map below. These have been used to inform the preliminary design of the battery storage facility.

This includes considerations such as:

- Agricultural land classification
- Topography of the site
- Natural screening
- Flood assessment and existing water courses
- Existing electrical infrastructure
- Tree assessments
- Access tracks



Layout is indicative and subject to further design

Traffic and access

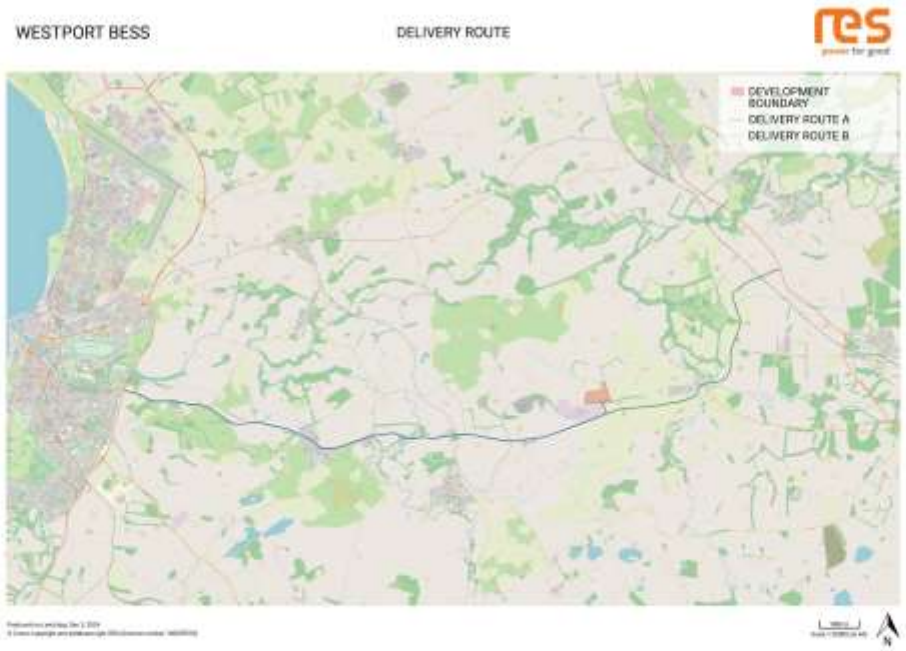
Component and material deliveries are a key phase in the construction of any battery energy storage project.

Safety is the key consideration and we will be undertaking a detailed analysis of the delivery route, as well as careful assessment of the site access points. The preferred access points and delivery routes are shown on the map below.

We are currently considering two delivery routes. For option 1, delivery traffic would take the A77 and then A70 east bound. Option 2 would see delivery vehciles taking the A76 turning onto the B7036. Both options would access the site from the south through the existing Creoch Road

Throughout the construction phase there will be a combination of HGVs (for the component and material deliveries) and cars/vans (for construction staff), on site. Typically, there is peak HGV movements during the first weeks of construction whilst car/van movements are expected to be constant throughout.

A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application, which outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic. The Transport Statement will also itemise the estimated number of deliveries over an approximate 24 month construction period, if the project is consented, the indicative spread of vehicle movements during the construction phase and timing restrictions.



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Environmental considerations

RES will design the battery energy storage system so that it will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape.

A number of surveys and assessments will be carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. Potential cumulative impacts, with other developments in the area, will also be assessed.

The assessments to be carried out will include:

Ecology

A Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) will present the main findings of a desk study and walkover survey, categorising baseline habitats and conditions and their nature conservation value and predicting any potential ecological impacts from the project.

Acoustics

Noise is an important consideration, and the battery energy storage system will be designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the determining authority should the project be granted consent. The scope of the acoustic assessment includes determining the baseline background sound levels and predicting sound levels from the project in order to assess the level of potential impact, in accordance with relevant planning guidance.

Flood risk & surface water management

Detailed design and flood modelling is being undertaken to minimise increased flood risk anywhere on or off site. A Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment will accompany the planning application which will also set out any proposed surface water drainage solution.

Landscape

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) considers the site and its surrounding context in both landscape and visual terms, to assess the potential effects of the proposed battery energy storage system upon landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity.

Heritage & Archaeology

This assessment sets out the cultural heritage baseline of the site as well as assessing the site's archaeological potential. It will assess the potential effects of the project on the cultural heritage resource, within the context of relevant legislation and planning policy, and determine, should any predicted adverse effects be identified, how these effects can be mitigated.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

The Westport project is being specifically designed to include comprehensive landscaping measures to reduce potential visibility of the scheme.

A landscaping plan will form part of the planning application and will set out new planting measures which would provide visual screening of the project. We aim to retain all existing hedgerow and woodland, where possible, and could include new hedgerow, shrub and woodland planting. Planting may be atop soil bunds for screening purposes.

The landscaping plan will also provide information on the timings and aftercare regime for all planting.

As with all RES developments, our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain as part of the development.

The creation of new hedgerow and woodland can provide wildlife corridors and vital resources for a range of wildlife.

Areas around the compound are typically sown with a wildflower meadow mix and riparian woodland planted around any surface water and drainage systems.

Where appropriate we would also introduce bird, bat and reptile housing.

Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

Our ambition is to continue to lead the market in delivering best-in-class health and safety performance, as we simultaneously look to the future in developing a zero-harm culture.

Health and safety is woven into every aspect of RES' battery energy storage systems. The Westport project will be developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways.

Monitoring and Remote Access

Unlike electric cars and scooters, for example, RES-managed battery energy storage systems are constantly monitored from our 24/7/365 control centre in Glasgow. Some controls can also be safely operated remotely from our control centre, such as the shutting down of an individual battery rack or the entire battery energy storage system, if required.

Battery Selection

The proposed battery technology for the development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL9540A), demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack.

Equipment Spacing

The site will be developed to include adequate spacing between the battery storage enclosures (BSE) to mitigate against the risk of fire spread in the unlikely event of a fire within one BSE.

Protection Systems

Each BSE will have a dedicated fire protection system, comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system.

Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The fenced compound will have a wide access route through corridors and through the centre, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the energy storage compound.

A Fire Risk Statement will accompany any planning application.

Have your say

We believe in meaningful and effective consultation.

The aims of our consultation process are to:

- Engage early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.
- Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed energy storage system.
- Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC), that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition.

Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.

A further round of consultation will then take place in early 2025 where the updated proposals will be presented and the community will have another opportunity to share their views. The website will continue to be updated throughout the pre-application consultation period

Westport Energy Storage Proposal

westport-energystorage.co.uk

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Westport Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Feedback from the local community is important at this stage of our pre-application consultation when it can have a direct influence on the final design of the project, and we would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comment form with your feedback.

Please provide feedback by **Monday 6th January**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Westport Energy Storage System Public Exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?

- ☐ Newsletter through the door
- ☐ Advert in local newspaper
- ☐ Project website – www.westport-energystorage.co.uk
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Westport Energy Storage System?

- ☐ Knew a lot
- ☐ Knew quite a lot
- ☐ Knew a little
- ☐ Knew very little
- ☐ Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Westport Energy Storage System?

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Not at all

1.4 What part of the public exhibition did you find most useful?

- ☐ Exhibition information boards
- ☐ Ability to ask RES questions
- ☐ Other (please specify)

1.5 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

2 Westport Energy Storage System Proposal

Your views on the Westport Energy Storage System proposal – particularly the preliminary layout of the project where people's comments can have a direct influence – will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 How do you feel in general about the Westport Energy Storage System proposal?

- ☐ I am supportive
- ☐ I am neutral
- ☐ I am opposed

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary layout of the Westport Energy Storage System?

- ☐ I am happy with the proposed layout
- ☐ I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- ☐ I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details below)
- ☐ I don't like energy storage systems in general

Further comments:

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Westport Energy Storage System.

3 Local Benefits

3.1 RES believe our projects should deliver meaningful local benefit.

We welcome feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Westport Energy Storage System, should it receive consent. Some examples from communities that we've worked with include:

- improvements to village halls,
- sports team sponsorship,
- funding for schools and local community groups
- community defibrillators
- improvements to local footpaths and/or signage.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

4 Climate Change, Energy Security and Renewables

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people's thoughts on how renewables can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

4.1 Do you agree or disagree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.2 Do you agree or disagree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.3 Do you agree or disagree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for Scotland?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.4 Do you agree or disagree that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy?

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I disagree
- ☐ I strongly disagree

Further comments:

5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. Providing this information gives context to your feedback, facilitates a better understanding of community views and priorities, and enables us to respond to any questions raised. However, if you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details, please include your postcode as a minimum.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

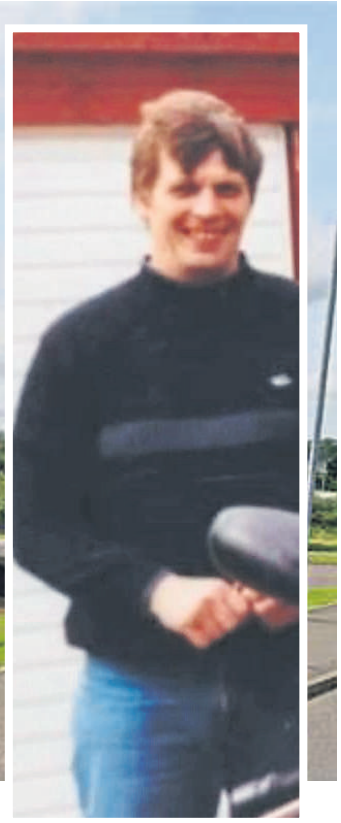
Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode*	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box ☐

When you have completed the comment form, please hand it in at the welcome desk. Comment forms are also available to complete and submit online at www.westport-energystorage.co.uk.

Forms may also be sent by post to: Westport project team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form, your feedback is important to us.



The 57-year-old died in his Meagher Court home .Image: Street view

Daughter's anger over dad's 'avoidable' death

Stuart Reid
stuart.reid@newsquest.co.uk

A GRIEVING daughter whose dad died just one hour after her family was told by ambulance crews he wasn't a priority has blasted health teams for their lack of accountability.

Kayleigh Davidson said "a lot of pain and anger" was being felt by her family following the passing of her father, Cameron, in October.

The 57-year-old, who suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), died in his Meagher Court home after taking unwell.

Despite Cameron's partner calling 999 while on her way to his address, she was told over the phone that he did not meet the criteria for an ambulance to attend.

Kayleigh, who was abroad at the time and was alerted to her dad's deteriorating condition by his partner, was informed that he was appearing confused and had been drifting in and out of consciousness.

He died less than an hour later after being found by a neighbour within his property - with Kayleigh branding his death, and the circumstances surrounding it, avoidable and "unacceptable".

"There's a lot of pain and anger being felt because of the way this went on," she told the Chronicle.

"I phoned the NHS after I got his toxicology report in and it said that there were changes in his lungs and there was a pulmonary aneurysm.

Cameron Davidson. Image: Submitted

"He was struggling to breathe and he was coming in and out consciousness and he already suffered from COPD.

"So she [Cameron's partner] phoned the ambulance and was told that he didn't meet the criteria for an ambulance to be sent out and they would get a triage doctor to call back.

"To this day we still haven't heard from them."

Kayleigh said she then filed an official complaint with the NHS, in the hope that she could get some answers over her dad's death and potentially prevent a similar tragedy for another family.

She added: "I phoned the NHS to put in a complaint which had to go through the ambulance service and I've not had anything back from them yet.

"I've not had anything like an apology or an acknowledgement that anything was wrong and I just don't think that's right.

"We were a family in need and we didn't get the help we required and I think if we'd got that help then my dad still might be here today."

Cameron had suffered from health conditions in the past but the family's overwhelming feeling remains that his passing could have been avoided.

And Kayleigh is determined to follow up her complaint.

She said: "Somebody needs to take accountability for this because a man can't die and then it just gets forgotten about.

"When I phoned to complain I was asked what I thought I would achieve from this.

"I know it's not going to bring my dad back but it can hopefully stop another family going through what we're going through.

"It's just been complete negligence and it's totally unacceptable."

NHS Ayrshire and Arran refused to provide a comment when approached by the Chronicle.

A Scottish Ambulance Service spokesperson said: "We would like to express our deepest sympathies to Mr Davidson's family.

"We have reviewed this case thoroughly to identify any learnings and would be happy to discuss our findings if they wanted to reach out to our patient experience team so we can discuss the case personally.

"We once again pass on our sincere condolences for their loss."

Help with wellbeing

AN EDUCATIONAL health and wellbeing event will be held in Cumnock later this month.

East Ayrshire Community Hospital will host the event to help locals learn more about services in the area.

Taking place on Tuesday, February 18 from 10am-12.30pm, the event will include a wide range of information stalls, with friendly healthcare staff on-hand to provide advice.

There will also be an opportunity to receive a free health check, as well as a cuppa and a friendly chat in the community living room.

For more information, contact Lorna McIlreavy on lorna.mcilreavy@east-ayrshire.gov.uk or call 07826 914638.

POWER
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Westport Battery Energy Storage System

Take part in our second exhibition

February 2025

www.westport-energystorage.co.uk

About the proposal

RES is developing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree, approximately 9km west of Cumnock.

Since our first public consultation in December 2024, where we presented our preliminary plans for the project, we have been refining the design in response to feedback received and ongoing surveys and assessments.

Consultation

As part of our continuing pre-application consultation, we are holding a second public exhibition in the local area to present updated plans for the BESS, ahead of submitting a planning application later this year.

Our team will be available to provide further information and answer any questions. All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk** from **26 February 2025**.

Comment forms will be available to complete and submit during the public exhibition. Forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the public exhibition and can be submitted online or downloaded and submitted via email to rebecca.randall@res-group.com.

Hard copies can be sent by post to Westport project team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Please provide your feedback **by Friday 7 March 2025**.

Please join us at our event to find out more:

Wednesday 26 February 2025 3-8pm

Ochiltree Parish Church Hall,
64-66 Main Street, Ochiltree, KA18 2PB

Get in touch

John Hills, Development Project Manager
John.hills@res-group.com
Third Floor STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Welcome to our public consultation

Thank you for attending the second exhibition for the Westport Battery Energy Storage System proposal, located on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree.

Since our first public exhibition in December 2024, when we presented a preliminary design for the proposed Westport Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), we have undertaken further site survey work to build our understanding of the site.

We have also considered feedback and comments received from the community and stakeholders, and fed this into the design process where applicable.

Today's exhibition presents the updated layout design for the BESS. Whilst the layout is almost finalised, this event provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback to RES, if you wish, on the updated design. Your feedback has the potential to influence and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

Alongside the consultation materials on display, we have produced a Report on Feedback which summarises the written feedback gathered from the first consultation and how we have responded to it.

Please take time to read the information provided and talk to our project team about any questions that you may have.

All consultation feedback submitted to RES will be reviewed by the project team over the coming weeks as we finalise the design process.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Westport Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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The world's largest independent renewable energy company

As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered mmore than 27GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 4,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 24 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution

Find out more at res-group.com

RES is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy bringing together global experience, passion, and the innovation of its people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

By listening, discussing, and working together, we can build clean energy project proposals that power positive change for everyone.

RES in Scotland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland.

From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating energy projects since 1993. This includes the development, construction, and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 830MW of battery energy storage projects, and we currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

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The need for battery energy storage

The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and battery energy storage systems provide an important role in this.

Battery energy storage technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. Battery energy storage helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation.

Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.

Battery energy storage can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress.

Battery energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to support Scotland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium iron phosphate technology. RES has developed over 830MW of energy storage projects across the UK and Ireland and currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

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Project overview

The proposed Westport Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is located on land north of Killoch Colliery between the villages of Coalhall and Ochiltree, approximately 9km west of Cumnock. The site is currently used for livestock grazing.

The site compound and access tracks are not expected to exceed 4 hectares and the site has been chosen for its proximity to Coylton substation and as it lies outside of any statutory archaeological and landscape designations .

If consented, the project would connect directly into the Coylton substation.

Like most BESS of this size, the Westport proposal would not be directly linked to an electricity generating station. The project would be connected directly to the wider grid network and the frequency and timing of when the system charges and discharges is therefore dictated by the grid network. The BESS will be utilised by the network operator to balance peaks and troughs in energy demand and generation.

WESTPORT BESS

LOCATION PLAN

We are still consulting on the layout and as such, it is subject to change

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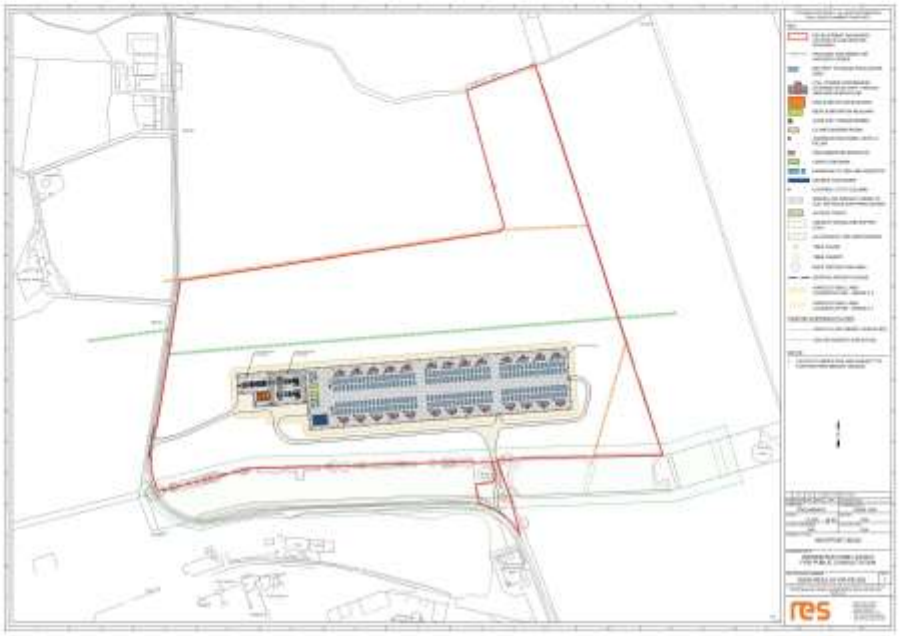
Infrastructure and layout

The plan below shows the updated layout for the Westport Battery Energy Storage System.



We are still consulting on the development boundary and as such, it is subject to change

The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven Lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

The site would comprise of approximately 200 battery containers. The typical dimensions of the battery containers are 6.1 metres long by 2.4m wide by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be the DNO substation which would have a maximum height of around 7.0 metres.

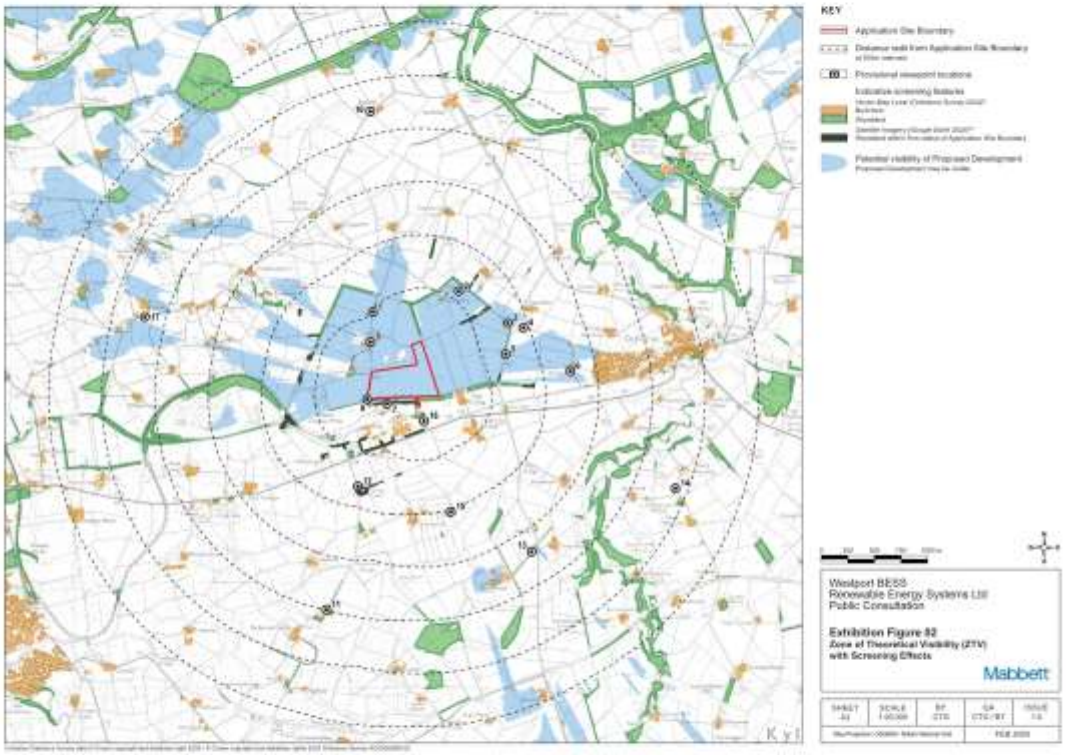
The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- DNO Substation & grid infrastructure
- BESS Substation
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Grid Connection Infrastructure
- Security System
- Landscaping
- Drainage Scheme


Google Earth
2 km
N

Landscape and visual

To help identify which landscape and visual resource may be affected by the Westport Battery Energy Storage System proposal, a computer-modelled Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan has been produced as shown below. This illustrates the maximum theoretical area of visibility of the proposed site taking into account existing buildings, woodland and hedgerows. It does not consider proposed new and infill planting.



A series of photomontages are available on view at today's consultation, providing projected viewpoints from three different representative locations, for the updated design.

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Viewpoint 1 – Minor road, north of Tally Ho

Existing view

Photomontage – year 1

Photomontage – year 15

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Viewpoint 2 – C123 road, northeast of Corselet

Existing view

Photomontage – year 1

Photomontage – year 15

Viewpoint 8 - Minor road, between Electricity Distribution Station and Creoch House access

Existing view

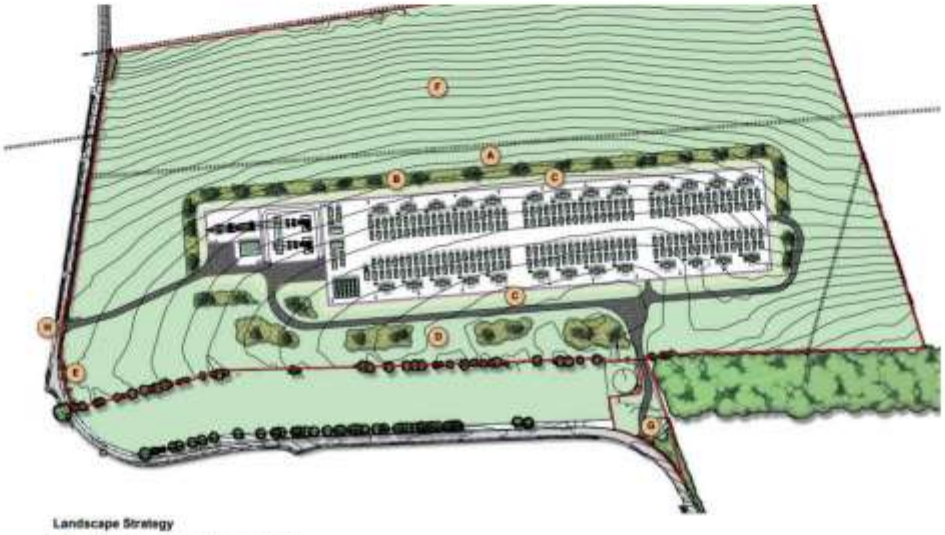
Photomontage – year 1

Photomontage – year 15

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

The Westport project is being specifically designed to include comprehensive landscaping measures to reduce potential visibility of the scheme.

As with all RES developments, our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain as part of the development. Our draft landscape plan is shown below. As we are still consulting, the plan is subject to change.



Landscape Strategy

- **A** Maintain a 15m width between the existing overhead wires and any form of development, including new landscaping.
- **B** To mitigate potential views from the north, a proposed belt of native shrub and tree planting is to be implemented along the northern boundary of the site and to wrap around the eastern and western corners.
- **C** Areas affected by earthworks i.e regrading, to facilitate the development, to be reinstated with a wildflower grass seed mix to aid biodiversity.
- **D** Pockets of woodland planting to be included between the existing woodland belt and the proposed development to filter potential views of the development from the adjacent road to the south. Planting to be native species, initially planted as whips with occasional trees planted throughout to provide some coverage until planting establishes. Understorey within planting areas to be sown with shade tolerant grass seed mix. Tree / shrub guards to be installed in all new planting areas.
- **E** New native hedgerow to be planted along the western boundary with the local road where currently missing. All new and existing hedgerow along eastern boundary to be managed to a height of 3m for the duration of the development.
- **F** Remainder of existing field to be managed as farmland.
- **G** Existing access point to be adjusted.
- **H** Proposed access point using existing field gate. Visibility splay lines and localised widening to require loss of c. 13m length of existing hedgerow.

0m 50m 125m

1:2500

Legend

- Proposed Development
- Existing trees and vegetation
- Existing farmland
- Proposed wildflower grassland
- Proposed native shrub planting
- Proposed tree planting
- Proposed aggregate access track
- Proposed 2.4m high palisade security fencing
- Existing overhead electric
- Proposed building / structure

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Other environmental considerations

RES will design Westport Battery Energy Storage System so that it will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape.

A number of surveys and assessments are being carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. Any potential cumulative impact, with other developments in the area, is also being assessed.

The assessments being carried out include:

Ecology

An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) will present the main findings of a desk study and surveys, categorising baseline habitats and conditions, and their nature conservation value. The EcIA will go on to predict and evaluate any potential ecological impacts from the project.

Wintering Bird Surveys have been undertaken over the past few months and the results of which will also be reported in the EcIA.

Acoustics

Noise is an important consideration, and the BESS will be designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the determining authority should the project be granted consent. Detailed two-way discussions have been undertaken with the East Ayrshire Councils Environmental Health Officer and a noise methodology has been agreed.

The scope of the acoustic assessment includes determining the baseline background sound levels and predicting sound levels from the project in order to assess the level of potential impact, in accordance with relevant planning guidance.

Flood risk & surface water management

Following detailed design and modelling, the site is considered to be at low risk of flooding from all sources. Therefore any development will have a minimal impact on flood risk elsewhere.

The Westport proposal will include an attenuation pond, which will restrict surface water discharge into Trabboch Burn, and ensure that the flood risk impact elsewhere is negligible.

Landscape

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will accompany the planning application. This considers the site and its surrounding context in both landscape and visual terms, to assess the potential effects and impact of the proposed battery energy storage system upon landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity.

Heritage & Archaeology

This assessment sets out the cultural heritage baseline of the site as well as assessing the site's archaeological potential. It has assessed the potential effects of the project on the cultural heritage resource, within the context of relevant legislation and planning policy.

Information obtained from a review of the site history and on-site surveys has indicated that there is very little evidence of important heritage or archaeological findings or settings on the site.

Arboricultural

A root protection plan and a tree constraints plan have been completed to allow the development to be designed around the root protection zones.

Traffic and access

Component and material deliveries are a key phase in the construction of any Battery Energy Storage System.

At this stage the preferred delivery route for components and materials travels along the A70, before turning north onto Creoch Road.

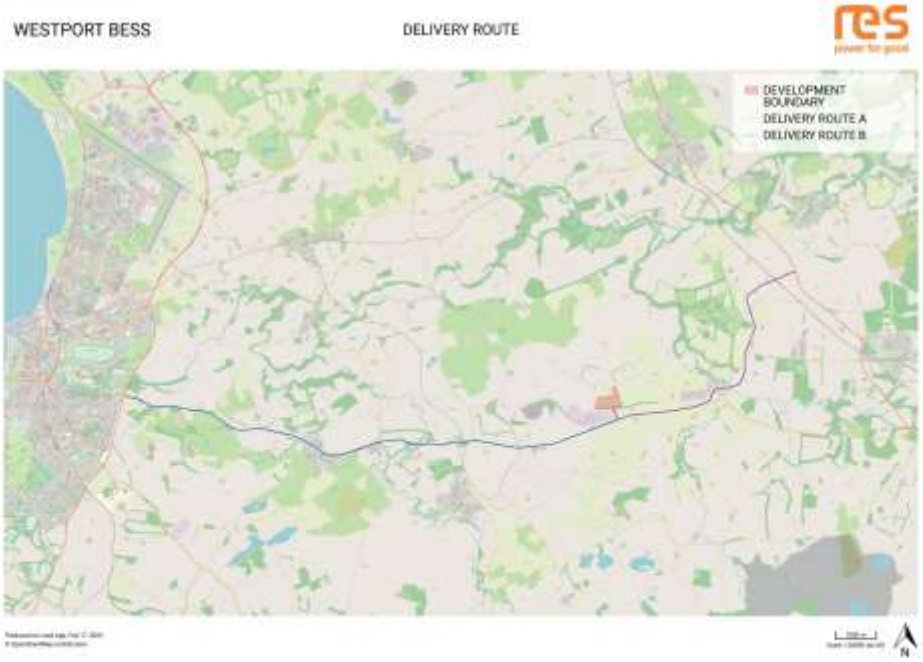
Safety is the key consideration and we have undertaken a detailed analysis of the delivery route, as well as careful assessment of the site access points to ensure the safety of all road users.

The construction period for Westport project, if consented, is expected to take approximately 24 months.

The peak traffic movements are typically during the first few months of construction, with an average maximum of 20 daily HGV deliveries during the first six months, dropping to around 10 HGV movements per day usually from month seven onwards.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will accompany the planning application. The CTMP outlines the overall framework for managing the movement of construction and delivery traffic safely. The CTMP will also itemise the expected number of traffic movements and timing restrictions. The traffic movements will be limited to avoid morning and evening peak times, where possible.

We aim to retain all top soil during construction works. Retaining the top soil will reduce traffic movements and support the site's restoration at the end of its life.



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Decommissioning and restoration

RES has proven experience in the decommissioning of battery energy storage systems, returning the site to its original use in a safe and efficient

The Westport site would be returned to its original use at the end of its life. Once all materials and components have been removed, topsoil we aim to retain during the construction phase, will be reseeded, according to the landowner's requirements.

Traditionally, decommissioned materials end up in landfill, contributing to environmental degradation. We aimed to break this cycle in the recent decommissioning of two projects, by prioritising reuse and recycling for each of the batteries, in addition to the transformers, cabling and components that had further useful life. Concrete was repurposed by crushing it into aggregate.

By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly waste-free decommissioning process and meeting our goal of recycling 98% of project materials, we hope to set a precedent for sustainable practices in the industry.

This aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship but also serves as a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape.

There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life. Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. As the battery markets grows, we are already seeing the number of techniques available for recycling increase.

The decommissioning and restoration of the site is usually secured via a planning condition and through obligations within land agreements.

Image for illustrative purposes only

Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

Our ambition is to continue to lead the market in delivering best-in-class health and safety performance, as we simultaneously look to the future in developing a zero-harm culture.

Health and safety is woven into every aspect of RES' battery energy storage systems (BESS). The Westport project will be developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways.

Monitoring and Remote Access

Unlike electric cars and scooters, for example, RES-managed BESS' are constantly monitored from our 24/7/365 control centre. Some controls can also be safely operated remotely from our control centre, such as the shutting down of an individual battery rack or the entire BESS, if required.

Battery Selection

The proposed battery technology for the development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL9540A), demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack.

Equipment Spacing

The site will be developed to include adequate spacing between the battery storage enclosures (BSE) to mitigate against the risk of fire spread in the unlikely event of a fire within one BSE.

Protection Systems

Each BSE will have a dedicated fire protection system, comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system.

Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The site will have wide access corridors of up to 15 metres throughout the compound, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the battery energy storage compound.

An Outline Fire Risk Management Plan will accompany any planning application.

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Working with the local supply chain

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like Westport are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities. These opportunities can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the local area.

Such services and suppliers include groundworks, electrical works, plant operators, labourers, cleaners, fencers, landscapers and accommodation and other hospitality services. RES is keen to hear from local businesses who are interested in learning more about the opportunities associated with the construction and operation of our energy projects.

Local benefits

RES seeks to be a Power for Good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to deliver tangible local benefits.

We believe that our projects should provide direct, lasting benefits aligned to the priorities and aims of the local communities.

As part of our pre-application consultation, we are seeking feedback on ideas, from the local community and stakeholders, for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from Westport, should it receive consent.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us by filling in a comment form.

Some examples from other communities that we've worked with include:

- business start-up initiatives
- road safety initiatives
- apprenticeships/educational schemes
- improvements to village halls
- improved broadband provision
- improvements to local footpaths

Any feedback which may tie into the project design is particularly important for us to capture at this stage, so that it can be considered in relation to finalising the design of the project.

Have your say

We believe in meaningful and effective consultation.

This second exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation and whilst the design is almost finalised, the event provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback to RES, if you wish to do so.

Your feedback has potential to influence and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

If you would like to provide feedback to RES on the project, please do so by filling in a comment form at this exhibition or online at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk**. All the information provided at this exhibition is also available to view on the above website.

The closing date for written feedback to RES is **Friday 7th March 2025**. At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the proposal, please fill in a comment form with your details or speak to one of the project team.

We currently expect to submit the Section 36 application in Spring 2025. A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will accompany the planning application. The PAC Report will summarise the communications activity that has been undertaken on the project and the consultation feedback received.

Once the Section 36 planning application has been submitted, the determining authority will advertise the planning submission and hold a statutory consultation period whereupon members of the public, as well as statutory consultees, can submit their formal representation on the proposal.

These representations will then be assessed against the proposal and a planning decision made in due course.

Westport Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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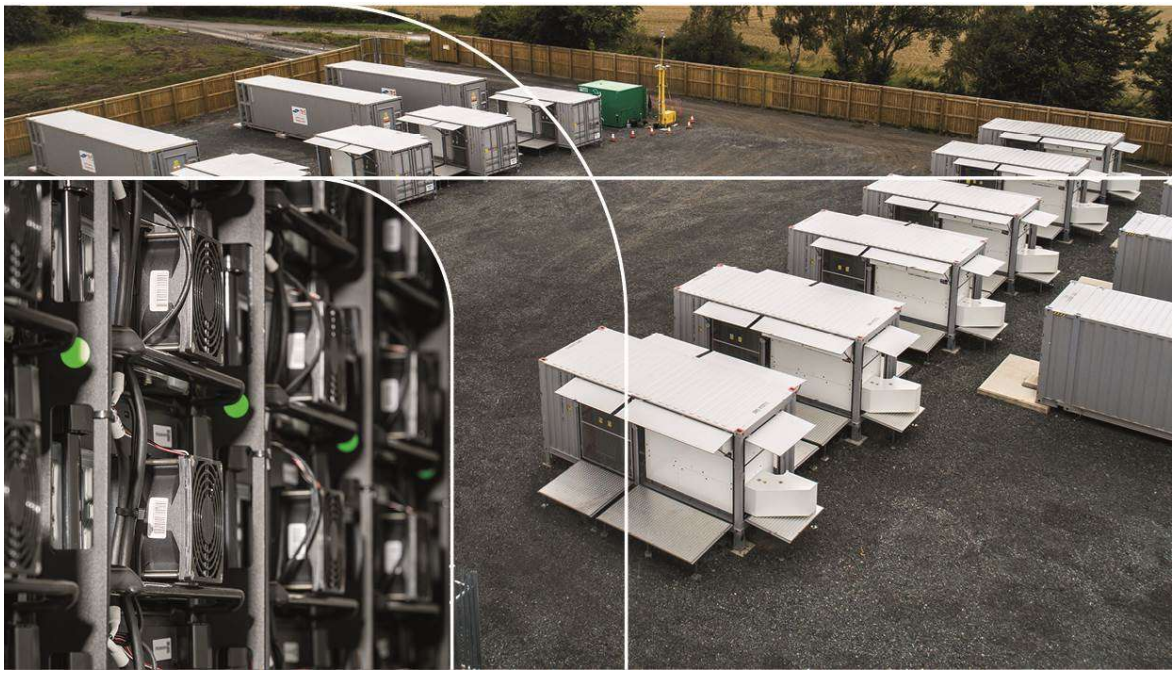
February 2025

Westport Battery Energy Storage System

Report on Feedback



Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

RES has considerable experience in developing battery energy storage system (BESS) projects throughout the UK and believes in the importance of community consultation to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which can be considered when developing and designing a project.

The purpose of this report is to summarise the feedback received from the community during the December 2024 public exhibition and subsequent consultation period. It also highlights any changes that have been made to the preliminary design of the proposed development since then.

Each section focuses on a specific topic area and summaries the key themes within the feedback, followed by RES' response. RES has acknowledged these comments and has provided updated information at this second public exhibition. A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will accompany the planning application submission. The report will summarise the exhibition events and the consultation feedback received.

1.2 December 2024 Consultation

RES held a public exhibition in the local area in December 2024 as part of its pre-application consultation on the proposed Westport BESS. The event provided people with the opportunity to learn more about the project, discuss the proposals with the project team, and provide written feedback to RES on the preliminary design.

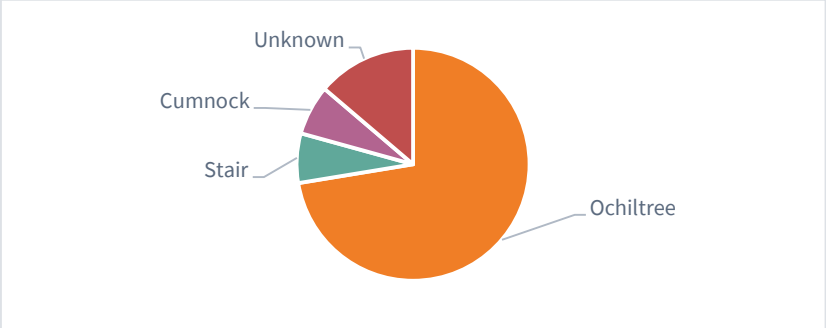
A range of information was made available, with RES staff on hand to discuss the proposal and answer any questions. A four-week consultation period followed the exhibition, for people to submit written feedback to RES on the proposal and preliminary design, taking into account the Christmas and New Year holidays.

2 General Overview

Approximately 29 people attended the first consultation event and six completed comment forms were received by the time that the consultation period closed – providing 13 individual comments across a variety of topics.

6	13	29
Individual comment forms	**Individual comments**	**Consultation attendees**

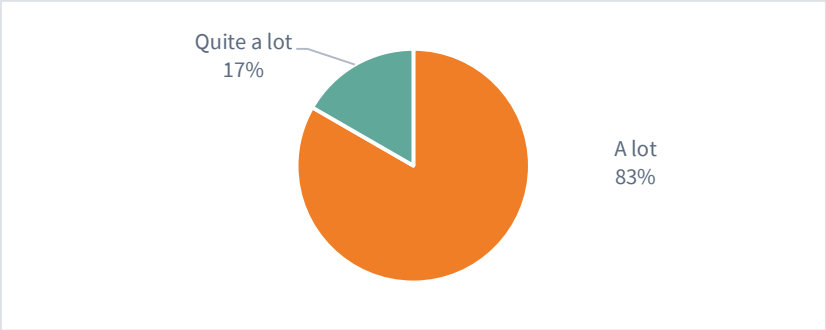
Interest in the proposal was observed across the local area, with most attendees visiting from Ochiltree. The graph below highlights the local areas the exhibition attendees were from.



3 Comment form analysis

The comment form asked a number of multiple-choice questions along with form fields for the respondents to make individual comments. A full analysis of the comment form feedback will be provided in the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report which will accompany the planning application.

100% of respondents outlined that they increased their understanding about the proposal (Q1.3) by a lot or quite a lot, following their attendance at the exhibition.

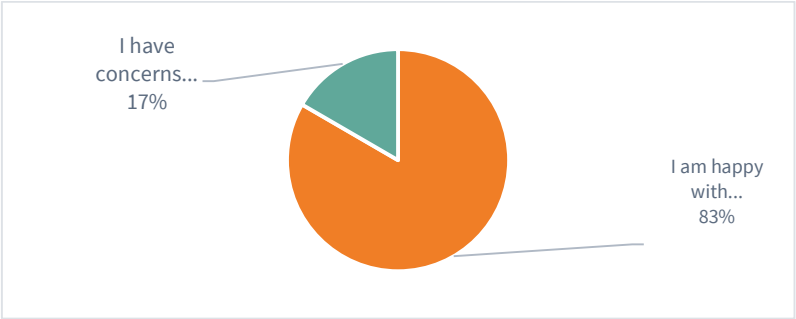


One respondent offered feedback on how the public exhibition could have been improved, for example: a plan showing all developments within the area and visual representation of how the BESS would look in the local landscape. RES has acknowledged these comments and have provided a plan showing other developments and photomontages of the Westport project as part of the second public exhibition.

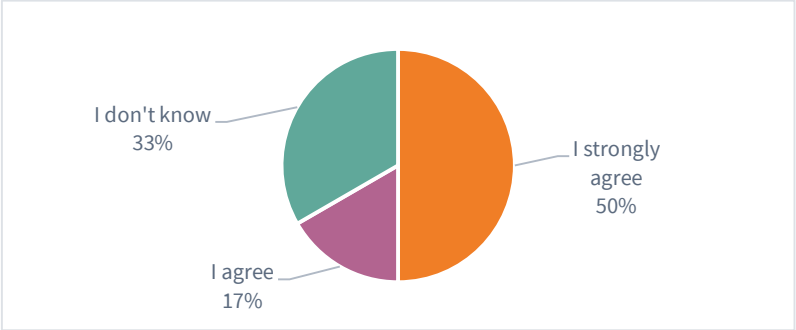
When asked what part of the public exhibition they had found most useful, 83.3% of respondents stated that the exhibition information boards were the most useful, the same percentage also added that they also found the ability to ask RES questions was also useful.

Respondents were invited to provide feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that they would like to see supported or delivered in their community from Westport BESS, should it receive consent. All respondents discussed ideas for community improvements such as funding local centres, groups and the potential for EV chargers in the community, while another comment provided information on the Ochiltree and Skares Action Group survey on their 5-year plan, and how it would be important for RES to listen to this feedback too.

RES also included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked how the respondent felt about the proposed preliminary layout for the project. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 83% responded that they are happy with the proposed layout and 17% said they had concerns about the layout.



When asked whether they agreed or disagreed that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy (Q 4.4), 67% stated they strongly agreed or agreed with 33% stating they didn't know.



The consultation feedback submitted to RES has been considered by the project team as part of the design development, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the detailed technical and environmental studies that have been undertaken. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to engage with us during our first round of consultation.

4 Topical breakdown of comments

We received comments, both verbally and in writing, that followed similar themes and the below provides an update on RES' response.

4.1 Cumulative and differentiated projects

We understand and are mindful of concerns amongst the community regarding the number of developments in the area. Due to the limited grid capacity across Scotland, and the United Kingdom, it is common to see developments focus on areas where there is grid capacity, which is the case at Coylton substation. Any potential cumulative impact from other operational, consented, and in-planning developments is being carefully considered and assessed.

We have taken feedback from the first public exhibition on board and, for the second public exhibition, have developed a map illustrating the individual projects and the developers working on these proposals (consented, in-planning or proposed).

The proposal has been located close to the existing Coylton electrical substation where the project will connect to the wider grid network via small overhead wooden poles. BESS projects need to be located as close as possible to the substation from which its grid connection is provided in order to limit electrical losses and ensure efficiency of the system.

By locating the project here, there is also limited requirement for additional infrastructure to connect the project to the grid network, therefore minimising any environmental impacts.

4.2 Scale of the project

We understand and are mindful of the concern around the scale of the project. We believe that with the proposed screening and landscaping, the development will fit sensitively in the existing landscape whilst providing a necessary and important role in stabilising the UK's electricity grid. Our proposal of a 150MW BESS will act as a strategic piece of a puzzle to store significant amounts of energy when generation exceeds demand.

4.3 Fire risk management

Unlike electric vehicles and some older BESS projects, all RES-managed projects are monitored 24/7/365 from our control centre in Glasgow. The control centre can access, and remotely control, each individual rack which are being constantly monitored. Automatic electrical disconnection is enacted by the Battery Management System should operational temperature, current or voltage limits be breached. Multiple levels of alarms would be sent prior to any potential breach of the protection limits.

The proposed battery technology for the development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. Batteries will be specified to be tested and certified to UL 9540A, demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway. Successful testing in accordance with the current edition of U950A will show that, at a unit level following deliberate initiation of thermal runaway:

- No flaming outside the initiating battery rack observed
- Surface temperatures of modules within the target battery rack adjacent to the initiating battery rack do not exceed the temperature at which thermally initiated cell venting occurs
- Wall surface temperature rise does not exceed a specified temperature above ambient
- Explosion hazards are not observed during the test

A number of mitigation measures will also be implemented to further reduce risk from fire. These include:

- Equipment spacing
- Protection systems
- Secondary Access to battery enclosure
- Secondary Emergency Access for emergency services, for use if the main entrance is not accessible.
- A gaseous (clean agent), or an aerosol based automatic fire suppression system. Typically containers would also include a dry type sprinkler system. The system can be used in occupied spaces and has been specially designed with no global warming or ozone depleting potential. This is similar to systems which are used in commercial buildings, including office buildings, hospitals, hotels etc.

An Outline Fire Risk Management Plan will accompany the planning application.

4.4 Fire management water run-off

We are confident that the control measures in place reduces the risk of fire to very low. In the unlikely event of a fire, water would be applied to adjacent battery enclosures (known as boundary cooling) rather than the damaged BESS as such reducing any risk of polluted water run-off.

In the unlikely event of a fire, and if water is needed to cool equipment, the project design could include a space beneath the battery containers allocated for the storage of potentially contaminated water, utilising high void ratio stones. This area will be sealed with an impermeable barrier to prevent the spread of any contaminated water. Additionally, a cut-off valve can be installed at the outlet of this storage area, connecting to the main drainage system, to allow for the containment of run-off during a fire event.

4.5 Landscaping and biodiversity improvements

We were pleased to hear the positive response to our approach to landscaping and biodiversity improvements as part of the proposal. To continue this positive conversation, we have provided more information on the proposed improvements at the second exhibition. We look forward to continuing this conversation through the feedback from this exhibition. Our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain as part of the development, aiming to retain all existing hedgerow and woodland, where possible, but also including new hedgerow, shrub and woodland planting. Additionally, proposed riparian woodland planted around any surface water and drainage systems could deliver further biodiversity enhancements, providing good habitat for invertebrates that ultimately provide food for aquatic life.

4.6 Supply chain opportunities

Thank you to those that came to see the project team to discuss supply chain opportunities. We believe one of the most meaningful and lasting benefits to a community is through the use of local businesses during the construction phase. We have provided further information on our ‘Power for Good’ board and would welcome continued communication with potential suppliers throughout the development phase. If consented, we will reach out to local suppliers and contractors ahead of construction, to encourage companies to register their interest in tendering for the development.

4.7 Imagery and visual representation

At the second exhibition we have provided detailed illustrative imagery and maps to reflect how Westport BESS would sit in the landscape if consented.. This includes a satellite overview map with other consented or proposed BESS projects in the local area, as discussed with a number of visitors at the first public exhibition. Additionally, a Zone of Theoretical Visibility and photomontages from three viewpoints have been included in our exhibition materials, which will provide a more detailed understand of how the proposed Westport BESS will sit in the local landscape, if consented.

4.8 Risk to aviation

Due to the low-level height of BESS infrastructure and the project’s distance from the nearest airport, any impact on aviation is not expected. Where appropriate, National Air Traffic Control, the MOD and the Civil Aviation Authority will be formally consulted on the planning application.

4.9 Access

Throughout the c. 24-month construction phase, there will be a combination of HGVs (for the component and material deliveries) and cars/vans (for construction staff) on site.

Peak HGV delivery traffic tends to occur during the first few months of construction, after which traffic is generally limited to personnel travelling to and from site. Expected traffic movements will be itemised in the Construction Traffic Management Plan, along with any timing restrictions, etc. There is typically a maximum of 20 HGV movements per day during the peak period although this is subject to final design.

Thank you for providing feedback on local knowledge of the road network including weak bridges in the local vicinity.

5 Next steps

RES is grateful to everyone who provided feedback on the early stage design at the public exhibition event held in December 2024 in the local area to engage with people on the proposal (and during the subsequent consultation period).

The purpose of this final public exhibition is to provide people with an opportunity to review the layout design, speak with the project team, and ask any questions. Whilst the layout design is almost finalised, this event will provide people with a further opportunity to submit written feedback again to RES.

As well as the design layout and infrastructure drawings, RES have provided more information on landscaping and photomontages of how the BESS would fit in the landscape.

A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report will accompany the planning application and once the proposal is submitted into planning there will be an opportunity to submit formal comments to the determining authority. The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit will hold a statutory consultation period whereupon members of the public, as well as statutory consultees, can submit their formal comments on the proposal.

A copy of the key information presented at this exhibition can also be found on the website at **www.westport-energystorage.co.uk** together with contact information for the project team.

Westport BESS Proposal
Comment form

Today's exhibition presents the updated layout design for the Westport Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Whilst the layout design is almost finalised, this event provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback to RES, if you wish, on the updated design. Your feedback has the potential to influence and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

Please provide feedback by **Friday 7 March 2025.** Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Westport BESS Public Exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?

- ☐ Postcard through the door
- ☐ Advert in local newspaper
- ☐ Project website – www.westport-energystorage.co.uk
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Westport BESS?

- ☐ Knew a lot
- ☐ Knew quite a lot
- ☐ Knew a little
- ☐ Knew very little
- ☐ Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Westport BESS?

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Quite a lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Not at all

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

2 Westport Energy Storage System Proposal

2.1 How do you feel in general about the updated Westport BESS proposal?

- ☐ I am supportive
- ☐ I am neutral
- ☐ I am opposed

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed updated layout of the Westport BESS?

- ☐ I am happy with the proposed layout
- ☐ I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- ☐ I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details below)
- ☐ I don't like BESS' in general

Further comments:

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Westport BESS.

3 Local Benefits

3.1 RES believe our projects should deliver meaningful local benefit.

We welcome feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Westport BESS, should it receive consent. At the first exhibition, we received some good suggestions which have been listed below. Please rate their importance to you from 1 (highest priority) to 6 (lowest priority):

Footpath improvements	
Village energy efficiency support	
Funding for schools and apprenticeships	
EV charging points in the village	
Community EV pool car	
Supporting young & small businesses	

If you have any other suggestions for benefits the project may be able to support, please let us know in the box on the below

5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. Providing this information gives context to your feedback, facilitates a better understanding of community views and priorities, and enables us to respond to any questions raised. However, if you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details, please include your postcode as a minimum.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode*	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box ☐

When you have completed the comment form, please hand it in at the welcome desk. Comment forms are also available to complete and submit online at www.westport-energystorage.co.uk.

Forms may also be sent by post to: Westport project team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form, your feedback is important to us.